IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 15, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FARLEY, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 873.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 873) for the relief of George W. Wickwire, report :

That the claimant enlisted November 3, 1862, as a first-class messenger-boy on the United States steamer General Putnam, and was discharged April 16, 1863; that he applied for a pension at the Pension Bureau July 27, 1868, and that his application was rejected on the ground that the disease on account of which he was discharged did not originate in the line of duty. Claimant enlisted November 3, 1862, and was in hospital on board of steamer, and subsequently at Norfolk Naval Hospital, from about December 1, 1862, till the time of his discharge. He was discharged, as appears from the hospital records, for scrofulous inflammation of the hand and wrist, which was the result of erysipelas, and the records state that this erysipelas did not originate in the line of duty. How it originated they do not set forth.

Examining Surgeon Charles H. Lathrop reports in 1869 that applicant "has a dislocation of the lower end of the ulna, backwards. The wrist is stiff, and he is unable to use the hand freely. Disability one-half." The applicant and Ensign William Jennings, the latter the officer second in command of the steamer General Putnam in 1862–'63, testify that the injury to the wrist was occasioned by a fall while practicing at a gun in line of duty, and that he was disabled, and entered hospital on account of said injury. The evidence is somewhat conflicting as to whether the disease, erysipelas, which subsequently intervened, resulted from the alleged fall or from some other cause not mentioned in the hospital records.

Your committee would recommend that applicant be allowed pension for one-half disability from and after the passage of this act.

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